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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

MEET THE COUNTY ACP CHAIRMAN - One of the busiest farmers in \_\_\_\_\_ county these days is \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the county Agricultural Conservation Committee. Not only does he have to look after his own farm at \_\_\_\_\_ (location) but he is helping, or trying to help, all the other farmers in \_\_\_\_\_ county with their farm conservation plans.

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ was elected (re-elected) last fall as chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ county Agricultural Conservation Committee. (Complete this paragraph by stating whether this is his first year, or how long he has served as Chairman -- Committeeman, etc.)

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is just one of more than 3,000 county ACP chairmen in the United States who have been elected by their fellow farmers to administer the Agricultural Conservation Program. These men are not on a salary but are paid only for the time they put in on the program. Quite often this is less than the wages they have to pay a hired man to take their place on their own farms.

But, as Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ puts it, "Somebody's got to do it. The Nation is faced with a serious soil and food problem. Population is increasing and people are eating more. At the same time the soil from which the needed food must come is decreasing. Every year more and more of it goes down the river. So, somebody has to lead out in the fight to save the soil."

He adds, however, that he doesn't have the whole job of running the ACP program in \_\_\_\_\_. "Two able helpers are on the committee with me," They are \_\_\_\_\_, vice chairman and \_\_\_\_\_. "And let's not forget the community committeemen. They help a lot. And many farmers not on committees help out. By working together we're making progress, but there's a lot yet to be done."

THE HISTORY OF THE

REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES

The history of the Republic of the United States is a story of growth and development. It begins with the first settlers who came to the New World in search of a better life. They found a land of opportunity and freedom, and they built a nation that has become a model for the world. The story of the Republic is a story of the struggle for freedom and justice, and it is a story that continues to this day.

The Republic was founded on the principles of liberty and justice for all. These principles have guided the nation through its history, and they continue to guide it today. The Republic has grown from a small colony to a great nation, and it has become a leader in the world. It has fought for freedom and justice, and it has won. It has built a great nation, and it has become a model for the world.

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HOW THICK IS YOUR FARM? - "What is your farm's third dimension? It may be a big farm a mile and a half long by a mile wide or it may be just a small farm several rods long by a few rods wide but more significant than the length and the width is the third dimension -- the depth."

In this way, \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, calls attention to the most valuable dimension of the farm -- the depth of the topsoil.

He points out that some large farms -- 200, 300 or 500 acres -- may be so thin that little can be produced either to give the farmer an income or to supply more food or fiber for consumers. Other farms, although small in acres are "large" in the crops produced -- their soil is deep and rich. Not all large farms are "thin" and all small farms "thick," but the productive size of a farm depends on the depth of the topsoil.

One of the main jobs of the Agricultural Conservation Program, says the chairman, is to help farmers hold their land; to keep this third dimension from decreasing. Deeds and contracts, he points out, have to do with the area. The ACP program helps the farmer hold title to his land by helping him hold and improve the third dimension on the farm.

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POPULATION, FOOD AND SOIL - Population figures, recently released by the Census Bureau, point up the seriousness of the Nation's soil erosion problem, says W. Leslie Martin, member of the PMA Committee.

With the greatest increase on record, 1947 showed a total United States population of 145,340,000, an increase of 13,700,000 since 1940. Babies born in 1947 totalled 3,908,000.

The figures also show that, on the average, each person ate 17 percent more food in 1947 than in the 1935-39 period.

Population is increasing at the rate of better than a million and a half persons per year, but cropland -- the land from which all of these people must

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Dear Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst.

and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. [Signature]

[Address]

[Address]

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get their food — is decreasing and wearing out, the chairman states. About half a million acres is being destroyed by erosion each year. Millions of acres are being depleted of the essential minerals necessary for the growing of crops.

With only about 360 million acres of cropland now in use, it figures out to less than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land per person. And the thickness of the layer of topsoil on this  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres also is of vital importance, he points out. The layer of topsoil has been cut in half on millions of acres.

The purpose of the Agricultural Conservation Program is to keep erosion and depletion at the minimum while holding production at high levels, the chairman explains. Production must go on to feed the present 145 million people, the 146 or 147 million estimated for next year, and the 166 million in prospect for 1975. In addition, food must be shipped to Europe to prevent famine and suffering there.

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BIGGEST WATER THIEF AT LARGE - (For use where applicable and where it can be adapted to local needs)

It's irrigation time again — time to get the ditches in shape for the long hard use ahead, for here in New Mexico, water is life for most of our crops, reminds C. V. Hemphill, chairman of the State PMA Committee.

That's why padlocks have to be put on gates and ditch-riders have to be hired to keep watch. "Stealing water amounts to the same thing as stealing hay or money," says Mr. Hemphill, "And woe to anyone caught stealing water."

And yet, the State Chairman points out, farmers are losing millions of acre feet of irrigation water every year, "stolen by the biggest thief of all — seepage." From  $1/5$  to  $1/2$  of the water turned in at the diversion gates in New Mexico is lost before it reaches the crops to be irrigated.

Much of this loss, he reminds, comes during the critical months of July and August. Often this is the time when there is not enough water to mature crops and the effects of earlier irrigations are lost when the crops burn. Often a little more water — the amount lost through seepage, perhaps, — would make the difference between a crop and no crop.

Some farmers, he points out, already have taken steps to stop the leaks in the bottoms and sides of their canals by lining them. Concrete, bentonite, heavy clay have all been used effectively.

Lining canals is included as an approved conservation practice under the 1948 program, the chairman advises. Assistance may be obtained either under a "pooling agreement" with several farmers cooperating or for an individual. Full information on this practice can be obtained from county ACP committeemen.

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

CHAIRMAN GIVES ACP CLOSING DATE - (For use where applicable) - Farmers of \_\_\_\_\_

county are reminded that the closing date for signing up, or enrolling, in the 1948 Agricultural Conservation Program is May 1.

The 1948 ACP program carries about the same provisions for assistance in the way of financial aid, materials and services as last year except that the assistance to any one farmer is limited to \$500.

\_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the county agricultural conservation committee, explains that the ACP program provides for a joint attack on erosion of the soil and waste water. As he explains, "The Nation through the government cooperates with the farmers who operate the land in a program to conserve and protect that land so that it will keep on producing food and fiber."

By cooperating in the 1948 Agricultural Conservation Program, the chairman explains, each farmer will add his bit to the nationwide effort to conserve the Nation's most valuable natural resources -- soil and water.

"The farmer benefits in that his farm is in better shape to produce the crops upon which he must continue to depend for a living. In effect each farmer cooperating in the program is joining with his neighbors and with the people who live in town in a National program which strengthens the Nation's resources."

SUPPORT PRICE ON WOOL UP 1 CENT - Support prices for all 1948 clip shorn wools, except "off wools," have been increased one cent a pound, clean basis, according to information received this week by \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ county agricultural conservation committee.

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ said he was informed that the increase was made to take care of higher freight rates on wool. The effective date on the change is April 1, 1948.





In addition to the increase of 1 cent, all graded shorn wools of average French combing or better, including fine quarterblood wools, will be 1 to 2 cents a pound higher; scoured wools will be 3 cents a pound higher; best and average 8-months and full Texas wools will be one cent a pound higher, clean basis.

Similar increases of 1 cent a pound, clean basis, will be made in the purchase prices for pulled wool, with 2 cents per pound, clean basis, added for certain grades of worsted type pulled wools.

These increases in support prices are expected to give growers support prices equal to the prices they received in 1946.

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BUILDING EROSION RESISTANT SOIL - The first problem in controlling erosion is to hold the soil in place and this is often the first job of the Agricultural Conservation Program, says \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

Dams, terraces, spreader ditches, contour farming and similar practices he explains are examples of devices used to stop the water from carrying the soil away.

But in addition to these mechanical means of holding soil are other practices which need attention, the chairman states. These have to do with building resistance to erosion into the soil by means of plants and organic matter. It's a slower process but usually means increased production of crops as well as a means of saving soil. These practices improve soil quality.

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ said that while soil specialist may use other terms - soil quality has to do with the "feel" of the soil - the way it breaks up or falls to pieces when a handful of it is squeezed and then let go. Some soils feel "dead" and others "alive".

Soil with the right amount of humus, minerals and bacteria, he explains, makes a better place for plants to grow and at the same time holds together better under heavy rains. Such soil is porous enough to absorb a lot of the moisture that falls





and at the same time holds moisture longer than poorer soils. As he explains these soils are "wetter when it's dry, dryer when it's wet; cooler when it's hot and warmer when it's cool."

According to \_\_\_\_\_, there are many practices in the AC Program to help farmers build soil. He cites the planting and turning under of green manure crops and the planting and improvement of grasses and legumes, among the more common practices for improving the structure of the soil.

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PEOPLE STARVE WHEN SOIL IS LOST - What happens when erosion and depletion ruin the cropland of a country was vividly shown in a copy of a letter from the American Mission in Greece recently received by \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

Following is a quotation from the letter written by B. V. Vance, former Chairman of the Texas State Committee:

"People are dying here because of the failure of the past generations to protect the soil. Mountain sides with six to ten feet of fertile soil a century ago are completely barren. All the soil is gone and no vegetation is growing on the rocks. Men and women are walking as far as five miles up the side of the mountain to get a little patch of land, in many cases not over 1/16 of an acre, on which to grow a little food. Good soil is scarce in this part of the world. It is estimated that the potential agricultural productive capacity of Greece has been cut in half during the past few centuries because of erosion.

"I am wondering if our posterity is going to suffer for lack of food, clothes, fuel and shelter because of our neglect. We Americans have a grand opportunity. We have the experience of many centuries. We know what erosion will do to a Nation and we have the technical skill never possessed by mankind before this century. We should have a realization that new lands have all been exploited. We have a golden opportunity to protect our soil, water and other natural resources, but along with this opportunity goes a tremendous responsibility — a responsibility that we must not shirk. We must protect our agricultural resources at all cost."

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

ADEQUATE FORAGE ESSENTIAL - Range management begins at the grass roots -- the vegetative cover on the range, says \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Agricultural Conservation Committee. Conservation practices, stressed under the agricultural conservation program, he points out, means protection to the land and water resources resulting in a sustained production of meat and wool.

In the first place, the chairman points out, vegetative cover -- grass and shrubs -- helps hold moisture. The vegetation breaks the force of falling rain and the top-soil is not bombarded as it would be without cover. Old growth that has been allowed to die down and accumulate as litter on the ground between plants, helps soak up the moisture. The soil doesn't puddle so that it becomes water-proofed. Roots of the plants keep the soil loose and the water can penetrate.

On watersheds -- and much of our rangeland is on watersheds -- this process of getting more water into the soil during rains and spring run-offs means more water for livestock later on in the season from springs and seeps. It also means more water for irrigation and household use on the farms and in the towns depending on the watershed.

More grass throughout the season and a dependable water supply means greater livestock production, the chairman states. Where about 50 percent of the growth is allowed to die back each fall livestock do better and there is enough reserve stored in the roots for a good growth the next year. Where too much of the live plant is eaten off by overgrazing, the roots lack this reserve and the plant is weakened. If too heavy grazing is continued, the more palatable plants die out and the poorer feed plants take their place. When the soil is left unprotected erosion follows and flood danger increases.





The Agricultural Conservation Program, the chairman points out, provides an effective means for ranchers and the public to cooperate in carrying out conservation practices which bring about the desired balance of vegetation on the rangeland. "It doesn't mean disuse, but sensible use, for continued production," the chairman states.

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PLAN MECHANICAL CONSERVATION PRACTICES NOW - (Adapt to local Needs) - It's not too early to begin planning terraces, dams, drainage ditches, landleveling and similar mechanical conservation practices which can be carried out when the crops are harvested, says (Name), Chairman of the (Name) County Agricultural Conservation Committee. In the last few years, much of this work has been done by contractors with heavy dirt-moving machinery.

Delay in planning and in making arrangements, the chairman explains, may result in not getting the work done, another year is lost, and the land the conservation work would have saved is lost too. "Everywhere are evidences of erosion and soil depletion which have resulted from letting little conservation jobs slip by."

Mr. (Name) says that the growing season provides a good opportunity to study the land and determine where conservation work is needed most. Plans for terraces should be carefully checked so that they will be most effective in saving water and soil. The same is true for other dirt-moving practices.

He urges all farmers in (Name) county to talk over summer and fall plans with county or community ACP committeemen. This will avoid delay in getting work started and farmers will be assured of program requirements.

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CONSERVATION AND IRRIGATION WATER SUPPLY - (Use where applicable) - "Too much irrigation water now too often means too little later on in the year," says (Name), Chairman of the (Name) County Agricultural Conservation Committee.





Too often the feast or famine water situation, he points out, comes from a lack of needed conservation practices on watersheds of streams which supply irrigation water.

Most farms in one way or another fit into the conservation pattern which affects other farms, the chairman states. The condition of range land in the foothills often has a lot to do with the supply of irrigation water on the valley farms. In the same way the way water is handled on upper valley farms has a lot to do with the supply of water lower in the valley.

If range land is denuded by improper range management, water runs off in a hurry instead of soaking into the ground. When it runs off it takes soil with it. That means high water and floods in the spring followed by the early drying up of springs and waterless canals later in the season.

The best solution, the chairman explains, is to get as much water into the ground as possible and as far up stream as possible. Vegetation and soil in good condition soak up the excess water. Contour farming, terraces, grass and legumes, dams — are effective mechanical means of holding water. The soil is the reservoir. The water is stored in the ground. Everyone is concerned with water conservation, the chairman explains.

Water soaked up in the land percolates down through the soil. Often it shows up farther down as a spring. Ranchers on the upper slopes and farmers up and down the valley get the first benefit and cities and towns are assured of a dependable water supply.

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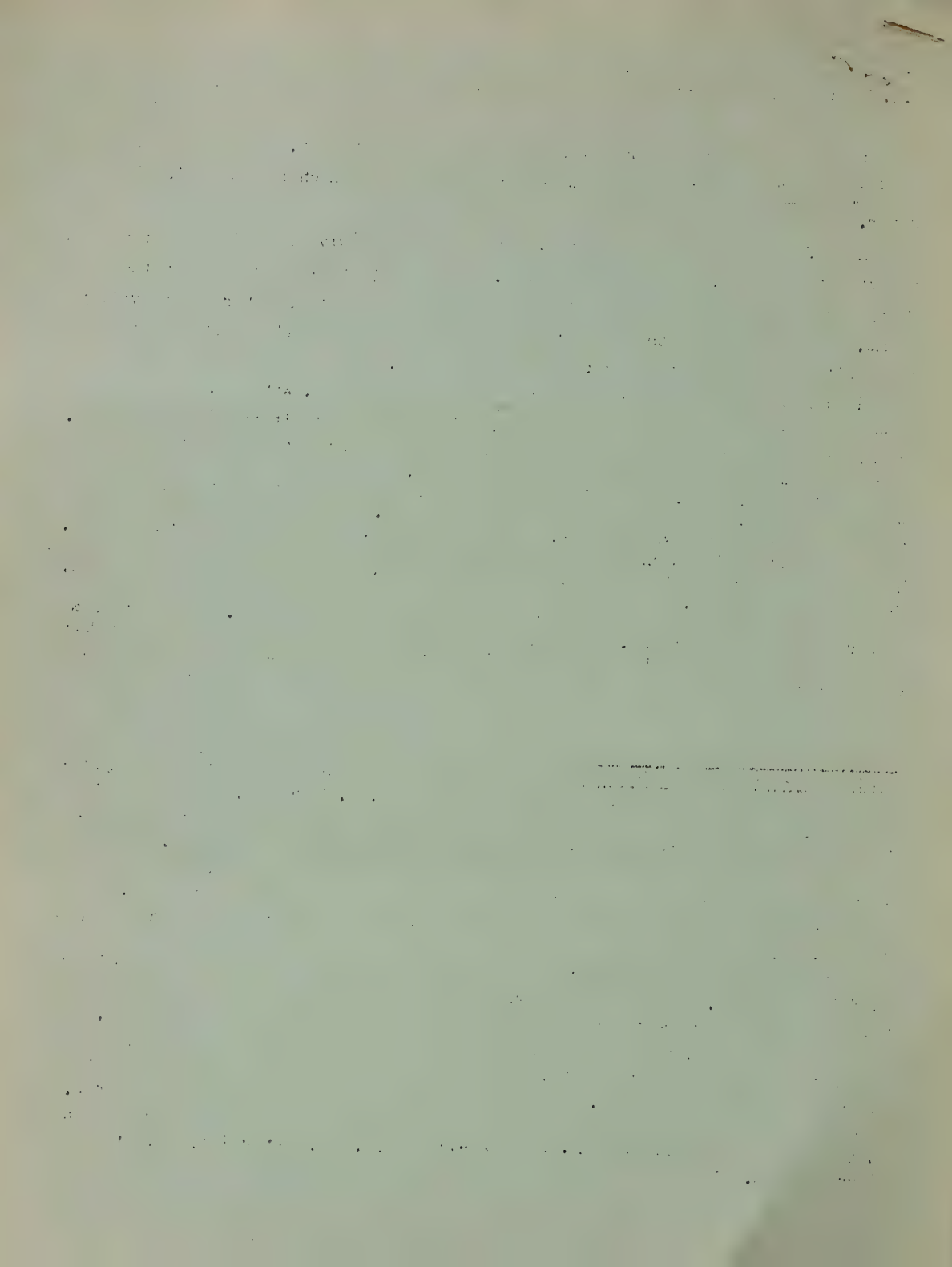
TAKING MYSTERY OUT OF CONSERVATION - Experience is doing a lot to take the mystery out of soil and water conservation, according to C. V. Hemphill, New Mexico PMA Chairman. Many of the things which once were considered beyond the understanding of the local committeemen and farmers are now becoming commonplace.

He calls attention to developments in the work being done by county and community committeemen in administering the Agricultural Conservation Program. Even office procedures which at first appeared complex are now becoming routine and commonplace.

The problem of determining the conservation needs of a farm was particularly baffling at first. The farm needs survey has now been developed to where it has become a reliable guide to what should be done on each farm and in each area.

In some States, as a result of carefully worked out training courses, community committeemen are now helping farmer neighbors with mechanical and structural conservation practices. Farmer committeemen are laying out contour lines, determining the slopes needed and taking care of other technical details in connection with such practices as the construction of dams, and staking out drainage ditch courses.

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

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FARMERS URGED TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON CONSERVATION PLANS - It's not the planning but the actual carrying out of practices that gets the conservation job done, \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Agricultural Conservation Committee, reminded farmers this week. He said that now that most farmers have made their plans for the season it's time to start putting the plans into practices.

He pointed out that every year there are some excellent conservation plans made that would save millions of tons of soil and thousands of acres of cropland, but for one reason or another the plans are not carried out and the land loses top soil and fertility. With an increasing population and a limited cropland we can't maintain our present standard of living and continue this loss.

Everything that every farmer can do -- with or without assistance of the Agricultural Conservation Program or other conservation programs -- will not be too much. Although people in the United States are eating better now than they have in the past, it is not impossible that we may be at the turning point where production cannot keep up with population increases.

Certainly we are speeding up the day when we will come to that turning point if we allow our land to get away from us, the county chairman said. Every farmer has a responsibility to the country to do his part in saving our soil. Because this problem is so serious, the Agricultural Conservation Program has been provided to help farmers get this job done. Farmers using this assistance are cooperating in a national fight to save the land and to keep our soil producing the abundance needed to keep the nation well fed.

That's why it's so important that farmers who have made farm plans for carrying out conservation practices follow through on those plans and actually





carry out the conservation practices.

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CCC LOAN COTTON POOL EXPLAINED - Cotton farmers of \_\_\_\_\_ county who have government loans on their 1947-crop cotton are being reminded that all 1947-crop loan cotton still under loan on August 1, 1948, will be pooled by Commodity Credit Corporation for the producers' accounts. This includes American-Egyptian as well as upland cotton.

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Agricultural Conservation Committee, said that 1947-crop cotton under CCC loan that is not redeemed by August 1, 1948, will be placed in pools and sold in an orderly manner by CCC. After July 31, 1948, producers will not be entitled to order the sale of cotton. The loans mature on that date.

He explained that when all the cotton in the pools has been sold the net proceeds, if any, after deduction of all advances, interest and accrued costs, will be distributed among the producers whose cotton was placed in the pools. Distribution will be made on the basis of the amount of the loans on the cotton placed in the pools. No payment will be made to producers at the time their cotton is placed in the pools.

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ reminded cotton farmers that they may either sell their "equity" in the loan cotton or redeem the cotton from the loan and then sell on the open market. Producers should give serious thought to marketing the loan cotton before it goes into the pools. At present prices, farmers should be able to sell most of this cotton at a profit over the loan and charges against the cotton.

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NEED TO KEEP PHOSPHATE MOVING - Farmers of \_\_\_\_\_ county were urged by \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the County Agricultural Conservation Committee, to use phosphate throughout the season wherever it is practical. He





pointed out that too often the demand piles up in certain periods of the year and the phosphate cannot be shipped in fast enough to meet the demand. Then demand will slacken off, and more could be shipped in if farmers could use the material.

This situation could be helped a great deal if farmers would plan the use of phosphate to cover the entire season instead of just a few weeks. Often phosphate can be applied to pastures when it cannot be applied on growing crops.

Each farmer has his own problems, but if cars could be kept rolling right along throughout the season instead of the demand being piled up in a few weeks, more phosphate could be used and more farmers could get the materials.

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DRY BEANS CROP INSURANCE OFFERED 4 COUNTIES - Dry edible beans are being added this year to the list of crops covered by federal crop insurance. Investment protection against unavoidable risks in producing the crop is being started under an experimental program in only four counties -- Jerome, Idaho; Elbert, Colorado; Huron, Michigan; and Wayne, New York.

Bean growers in these counties will be offered crop protection on specified classes of beans, in three progressive stages -- at planting, when the beans are pulled or cut, and the highest coverage is after threshing. Both coverages and premiums are stated in dollars per acre, and production is valued at a fixed price schedule in determining losses.

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FLOODS TAKE HUGE TOLL OF SOIL - Farmers carrying out soil- and water-conservation measures under the national Agricultural Conservation Program should renew their determination "to do something" about soil losses, according to \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_ pointed out that last summer's floods in the upper Mississippi River watershed took about 660 million tons of soil from upland farms in 6 Corn Belt States. This was enough to fill a train of freight cars that would encircle the earth at the equator 5 times.

Assuming wasted soil to be worth a nominal price of a dollar a ton, the erosion bill in only 30 days in these half-dozen States totaled \$660 million. That doesn't include crop damage estimated at \$200 million, and untotaled damage to bottomlands, roads, land, water transportation, and other facilities.

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

FARM MACHINERY PRODUCTION CONTINUES HIGH - United States farmers bought more farm machinery in 1947 than in any previous year, according to a recent U. S. Department of Agriculture report. Production prospects for 1948 indicate a still greater supply available for the domestic market despite the expected increase in European shipments.

Continued increase in the production of small wheel tractors and equipment used with such tractors is in prospect for 1948. Production of dairy and poultry equipment, feed cutters and horse drawn equipment has been high and may decline but it is expected that production will be adequate to meet requirements.

Incomplete reports on 1947 production indicate a total production of farm machines about one-third higher than in 1946 and about double the 1935-39 average. Wheel tractor production reached 420,000 units as compared with 255,000 in 1946 and the previous high mark of 313,000 in 1941.

Farm machinery exports in 1947 also were at a high level, accounting for about 18 percent of the total production, including industrial tractors. Exports included 80,000 wheel tractors, 15,000 garden tractors and 12,000 crawlers. About two-thirds of the crawlers were for non-farm use. Total U. S. production included 420,000 wheel, 166,000 garden and 38,000 crawler type tractors.

Prospects for 1948 indicate an increase in exports to European countries over 1947 while exports to non-European countries may remain about the same. The domestic and foreign demand for crawler tractors and large wheel diesel type or those adapted to heavy fuel is expected to remain strong and the supply situation "relatively tight."

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SOILS LACK TRACE ELEMENTS IN MOST STATES - Deficiencies of one or more trace elements are found in nearly every State in this country. These elements are sometimes called the seven minor plant foods: Boron, cobalt, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, and zinc. Though the needed amount of these elements is small, its absence will be apparent in the crop or in the livestock which consumes the feed grown on such lands.

In seven different States, boron is so badly needed on some of the soils that its application is a part of the Agricultural Conservation Program in those States. Usually boron applications greatly increase the yields of sensitive crops such as alfalfa.

The soils of seven other States are known to be deficient in cobalt, which can be noticed in a lack of thriftiness in the animals eating crops from those soils. Cobalt deficiency is usually avoided by giving some form of cobalt to the animals themselves.

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SOME PLANTS TAKE OVER CROPLAND - Not all cropland and pasture that is lost is blown away or washed down the river says C. V. Hemphill, chairman of the New Mexico PMA committee. When land is taken over by useless plants which prevent the growth of useful plants, it is lost as far as production is concerned -- lost until it can be brought back into the production of useful plants.

This explains, says the chairman, why some conservation practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program are for the eradication and control of noxious weeds and competitive plants.

A good example of conserving soil and putting it back into production is the case of F. W. Pulliam, a small rancher in Texas. Mesquite eradication was carried out on 87 acres of a 265-acre pasture on Mr. Pulliam's ranch. This particular pasture had carried one animal unit for each 20 acres. During 1947,





after the mesquite was eradicated, the pasture carried 65 head of cattle for 7 months.

The mesquite was killed with kerosene in the spring of 1946 and cattle were kept off this range throughout the year. In 1947 a good stand of grass had replaced the mesquite and grazing was resumed.

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INDIANA STARTS SHELLLED CORN DRYING PROJECT - A shelled corn drying project is being started in Indiana.

In the first experiment, 2,000 bushels of shelled corn with a 25-percent moisture content will be placed in a 2730-bushel/<sup>steel</sup>bin. A false floor of cement building blocks and 2 x 4's covered with quarter inch hardware cloth will be put under the bin. Then the shelled corn will be dried down to 13-percent moisture by forcing heated air up through it. Afterward the dried corn will be sent to a wet milling plant where it will be processed to determine the effects of this low-heat drying method.

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